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BY THE KING.

A Proclamation Commanding the use of the Book of COMMON-PRAYER according to Law, notwithstanding the pretended Ordinances for the New DIRECTORY.

WHEREAS by a Printed Paper, dated the third of January last past, intituled, *An Ordinance of Parliament for taking away the Book of Common-Prayer, and for establishing and putting in execution of the Directory for the Publique Worship of God*; It is said to be ordained amongst other things, That the Book of

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Common-Prayer should not remaine, or be from thenceforth used in any Church, Chappell, or place of publique Worship within the Kingdome of *England*, or Dominion of *Wales*; And that the *Directory* for publique Worship in that printed Paper set forth, should be from thenceforth used, pursued, and observed in all Exercises of publique Worship of God in every Congregation, Church, Chappell, and place of publique Worship. And by another printed Paper, dated the 23th day of *August* last past, intituled, *An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, for the more effectuall putting in execution the Directory for Publique Worship, &c.* particular directions are set downe for the dispersing, publishing, and use of the said *Directory*, in all Parishes, Chappelries, and Donatives, and for the calling in and suppressing of all Books of Common-Prayer, under severall forfeitures and penalties to be levyed and imposed upon Conviction before Justices of Assize, or of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, and of the Peace; as by the said two printed Papers may appeare. And taking into Our Consideration, that the Book of Common-Prayer, which is endeavoured thus to be abolished, was Compiled in the times of Reformation, by the most Learned and Pious Men of that Age, and defended and confirmed with the Martyrdome of many; and was first established by Act of Parliament in the time of King *Edward* the sixth, and never repealed or laid aside, save only in that short time of Queene *Maries* Reigne, upon the Returne of Popery and Superstition; and in the first yeare of Queene *Elizabeth*, it was againe revived and established by Act of Parliament; and the repeale of it then declared by the whole Parliament, to have been to the great decay of the due honour of God, and discomfort to the Professors of the truth of Christs Religion: and ever since it hath been used and observed for above fourescore yeares together, in the best times of Peace and Plenty that ever this Kingdome enjoyed; and that it conteines in it an excellent Forme of Worship and Service of God, grounded upon the Holy Scriptures, and is a singular meanes and help to Devotion in all Congregations, and that, or some other of the like Forme, simply necessary in those ma-

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ny Congregations which cannot be otherwiſe ſupplyed by learned and able men, and keeps up an uniformity in the Church of *England*; And that the *Directory*, which is ſought to be introduced, is a meanes to open the way, and give the liberty to all ignorant Factious, or evill men, to broach their owne fancies and conceits, be they never ſo wicked and erroneous; and to miſlead People into ſinne and Rebellion, and to utter thoſe things, even in that which they make for their Prayer in their Congregations as in Gods preſence, which no Conſcientious man can aſſent or ſay *Amen* to. And be the Miniſter never ſo Pious and Religious, yet it will break that uniformity which hitherto hath been held in Gods Service, and be a meanes to raiſe Factions and Diviſions in the Church; And thoſe many Congregations in this Kingdome, where able and Religious Miniſters cannot be maintained, muſt be left deſtitute of all help or meanes for their publique Worſhip and Service of God. And obſerving likewiſe, that no reaſon is given for this alteration, but only *Inconvenience* alleadged in the Generall (and whether pride and Avarice be not the ground, whether Rebellion and deſtruction of Monarchy be not the intention of ſome, and Sacriledge and the Churches Poſſeſſions the aymes and hopes of others, and theſe new *Directories*, the meanes to prepare and draw the people in for all, We leave to him who ſearches and knowes the hearts of men.) And taking into Our further Conſideration, that this alteration is introduced by colour of Ordinances of Parliament, made without and againſt Our Conſent, and againſt an Expreſſe Act of Parliament ſtill in force, and the ſame Ordinances made as perpetuall binding Lawes, inflicting penalties and puniſhments, which was never before theſe times, ſo much as pretended to have been the uſe or power of Ordinances of Parliament, without an expreſſe Act of Parliament, to which We are to be Parties. Now leaſt Our ſilence ſhould be interpreted by ſome, as a connivance or indifferency in Vs, in a matter ſo highly concerning the Worſhip and Service of God, the Peace and Vnity of the Church and State, and the eſtabliſh'd Lawes of the Kingdome, We have therefore thought fit to Publiſh this Our Proclamation; And We doe

hereby Require and Command all and singular Ministers in all Cathedrall and Parish-Churches, and other places of publique Worship, within Our Kingdome of *England* or Dominion of *Wales*, and all other to whom it shall appertaine, That the said Book of Common-Prayer be kept and used in all Churches, Chappells, and places of publique Worship, according to the said Statute made in that behalfe in the said first yeare of the said late Queene *Elizabeth*; And that the said *Directory* be in no sort admitted, received, or used, the said pretended Ordinances, or any thing in them contained to the contrary, notwithstanding. And We doe hereby let them know, that whensoever it shall please God to restore Us to Peace, and the Lawes to their due Course, (wherein We doubt not of his assistance in his good time) We shall require a strict Account and prosecution against the breakers of the said Law, according to the force thereof. and in the meane time, in such places where We shall come, and find the Book of Common-Prayer suppreſt and laid aside, And the *Directory* introduced, We shall account all those that shall be Ayders, Actors, or Contrivers therein, to be Persons disaffected to the Religion and Lawes establish'd; and this they must expect, besides that greater losse which they shall sustaine by suffering themselves thus to be deprived of the use and comfort of the said Book. *Given at Our Court at* OXFORD, *this Thirteenth day of* November, *in the One and Twentieth yeare of Our Reigne.* 1645.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

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